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DARK NIGHTS
METAL
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"AN INCREDIBLE STORY."
–NERDIST

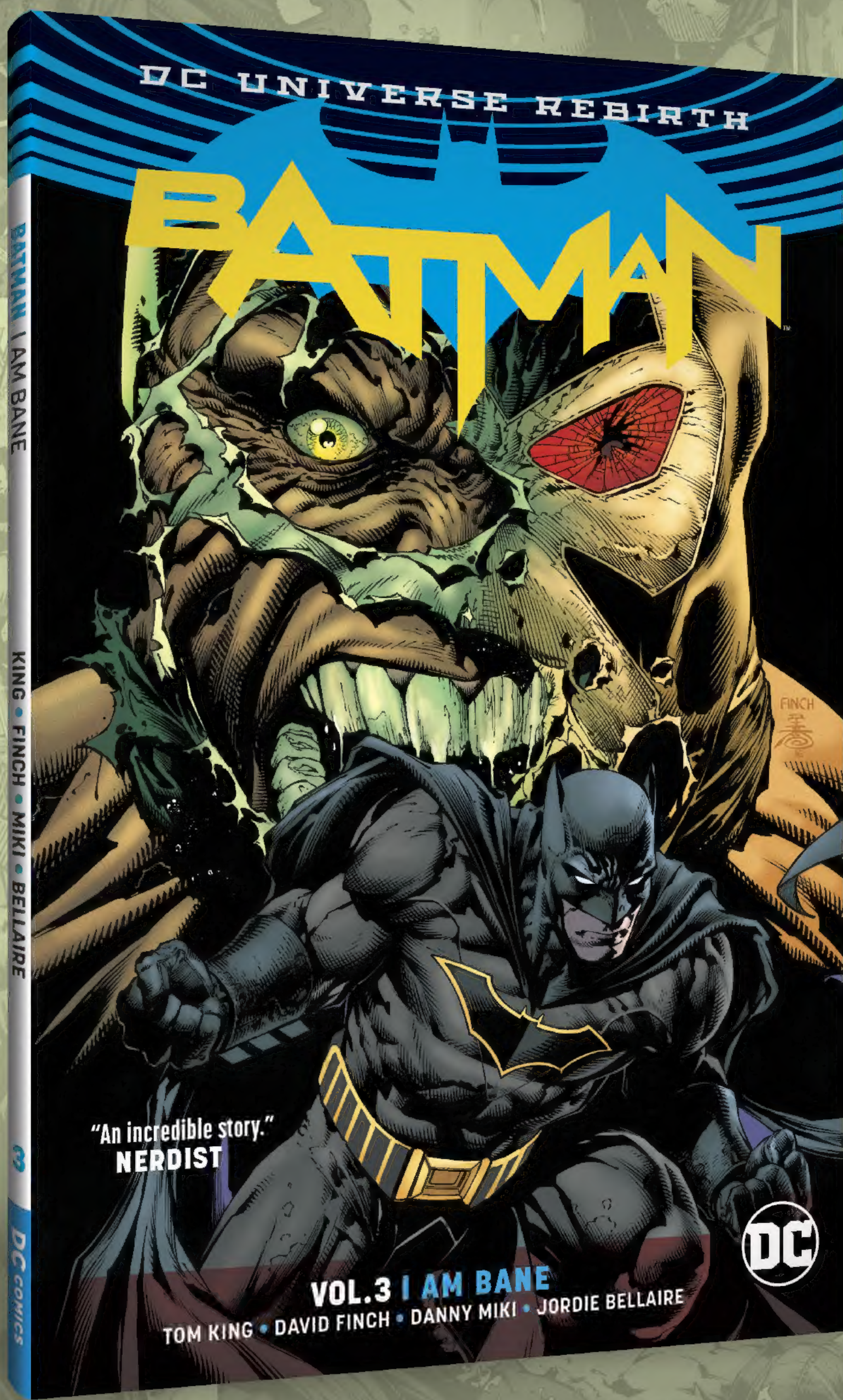
"A CLEAN, SIMPLE GATEWAY INTO THE BATMAN FRANCHISE..."
–IGN

BATMAN VOL. 3:
I AM BANE

The newest graphic novel collection of the best-selling series

Written by
TOM KING

Art by
DAVID FINCH



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DC THE NEXT EPIC STARTS HERE!

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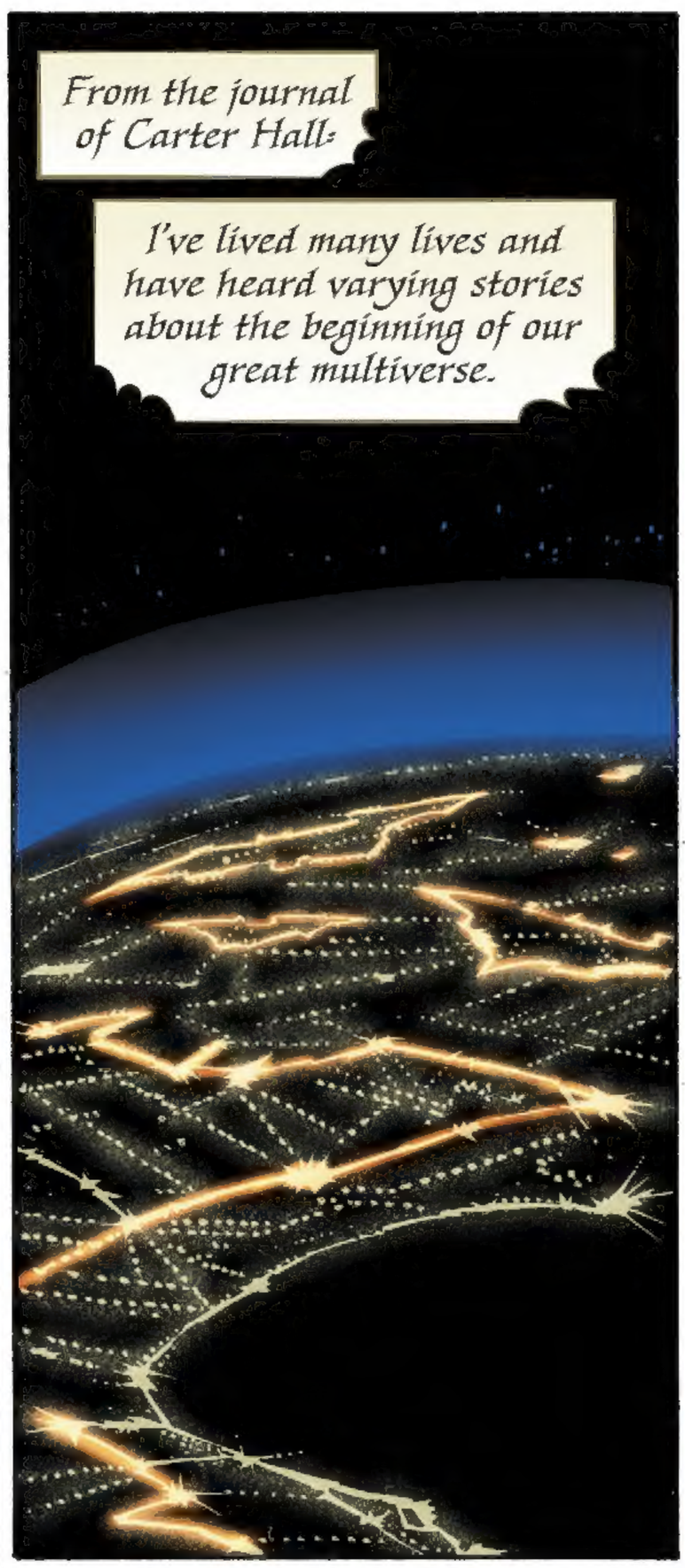

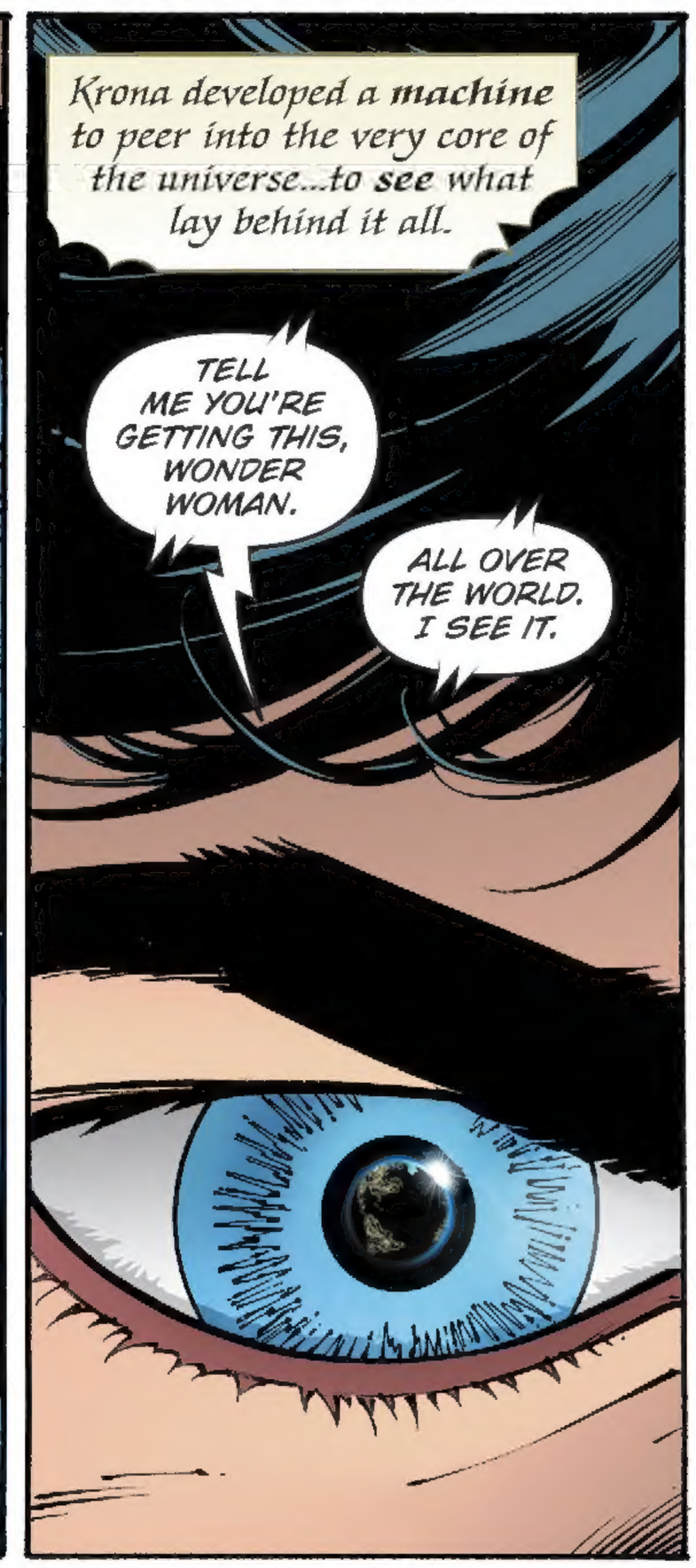

And what he saw was a **great hand** so far back that the very act of looking at it opened up millions of worlds.

My point is, the actual origin story of our entire multiverse is about **exploration**, about discovery, about searching for that **one thing** you have to find no matter what, whatever it may-

BATMAN.

WE NEED TO FIND BATMAN. **RIGHT. NOW.**

TEAMS, REPORT IN.

GORILLA CITY.

GREEN ARROW?

NOPE. HIS HEARTBEAT WAS A **TRANSMITTER.** JUST **MONKEY BUSINESS!**

NO OFFENSE BACK THERE!

GRAARGH!*

*ANCIENT GORILLA FOR: "WE'RE **APES,** YOU @#$%^." –EDDIE & TAY

HOUSE OF MYSTERY.

ZATANNA, CONSTANTINE?

JUST ANOTHER **SLEIGHT OF HAND,** SUPERMAN.

NERDLIHC FO EHT EVARG, EB ENOG.

HOW THE BLOODY HELL DID HE HIDE A TRANSMITTER IN WALLS MADE OF SOULS?

LEXCORP HQ. METROPOLIS.

BECAUSE HE'S BEEN PLANNING. BLUE BEETLE?

SORRY, NO LUCK HERE! BUT SO I'M CLEAR, ***WHY*** ARE WE HUNTING BATMAN AGAIN?!

FOR ONE, BECAUSE HE'S OUR **FRIEND** AND HE'S IN **TROUBLE.**

AND FOR ANOTHER? IF KENDRA AND THE BLACKHAWKS ARE CORRECT, HE JUST STOLE **THE MOST DANGEROUS WEAPON IN THE UNIVERSE** AND WE NEED TO FIND HIM. YESTERDAY.

CYBORG. WE'VE GOT **DARK ENERGY** RISING, CAUSING STORMS EVERYWHERE, **BAT SYMBOLS** LIGHTING UP IN **HIDDEN METAL** ACROSS THE GLOBE. STORIES OF A COSMIC DEMON COMING FOR BRUCE... PLEASE TELL ME YOU--

WE FOUND HIM!

I HAVE EYES ON HIM NOW.
THANK GOD. JUST PIN HIM DOWN. REMEMBER, FOR ALL HIS TRICKS...
AMAZON RAINFOREST.
...HE'S ONLY ONE MAN!
THANKS. WE'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND, SUPERMAN.
PULL OVER NOW, ROBIN! THERE'S NO WINNING HERE!
LISTEN, LADY, I AM THIRTEEN YEARS OLD AND DRIVING A BAT-HOG THROUGH THE AMAZON ON A TUESDAY MORNING...
...I AM ALREADY WINNING!
FAMILY...
...EVASIVE ACTION, NOW!

FATE
A DC COMICS EVENT
Scott "Sword Sovereign" Snyder
Greg "Lead Thrasher" Capullo
Jonathan "Jolt of Lightning" Glapion
FCO "The Fallen" Plascencia
Greg Capullo, Jonathan Glapion & FCO Plascencia Cover
Jim "Jailer" Lee, Scott "Spike" Williams & Alex "Avalanche" Sinclair
Andy "Ax Man" Kubert & Brad "The Banished" Anderson
John "Judgment Day" Romita Jr., Richard "The Righteous" Friend & Dean "Dagger" White Variant Covers
Dave "Dragon Slayer" Wielgosz Asst. Editor
Rebecca "Thunder Dome" Taylor & Eddie "Eradicator" Berganza Editors
Batman created by Bob Kane with Bill Finger
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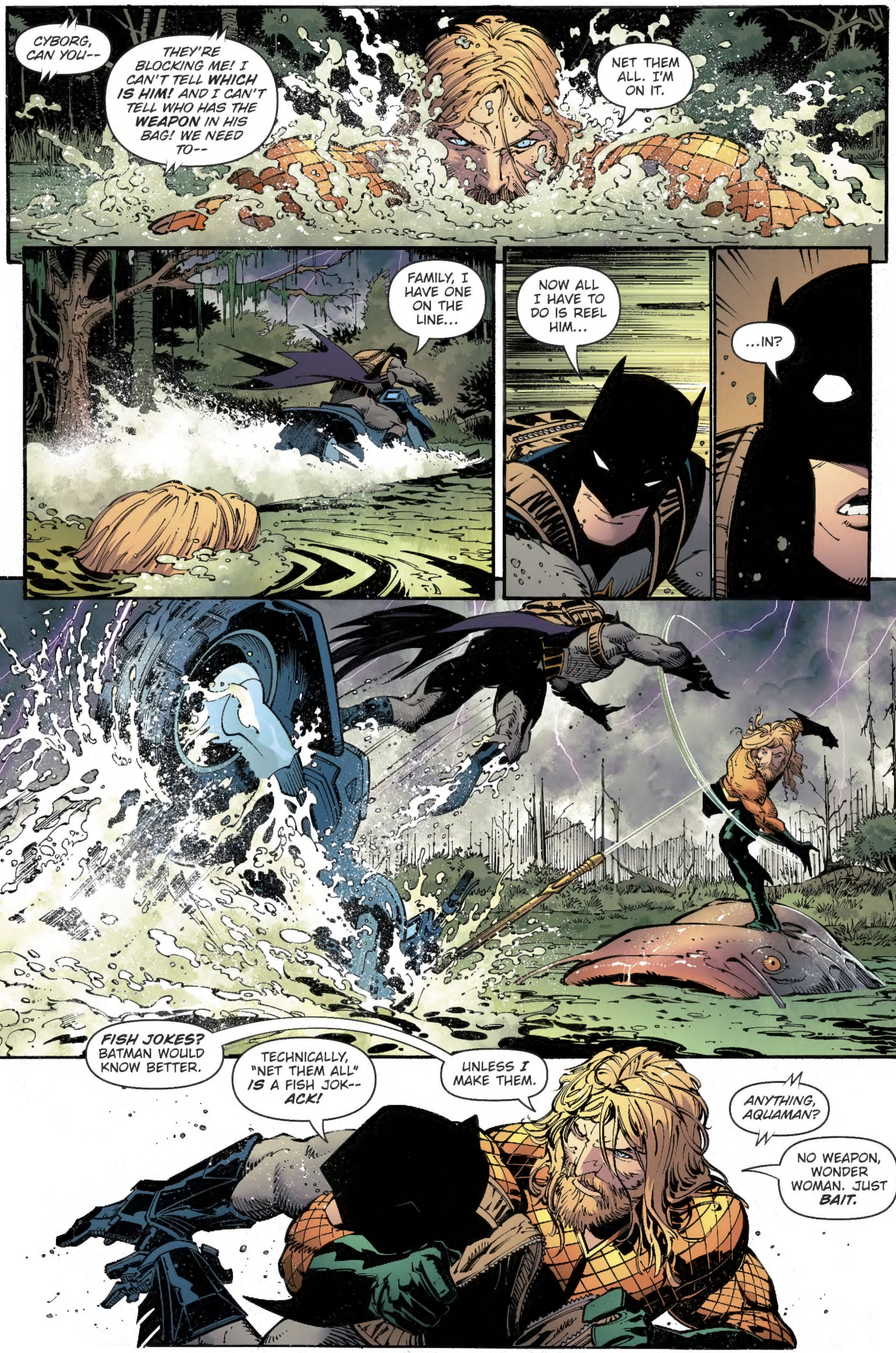
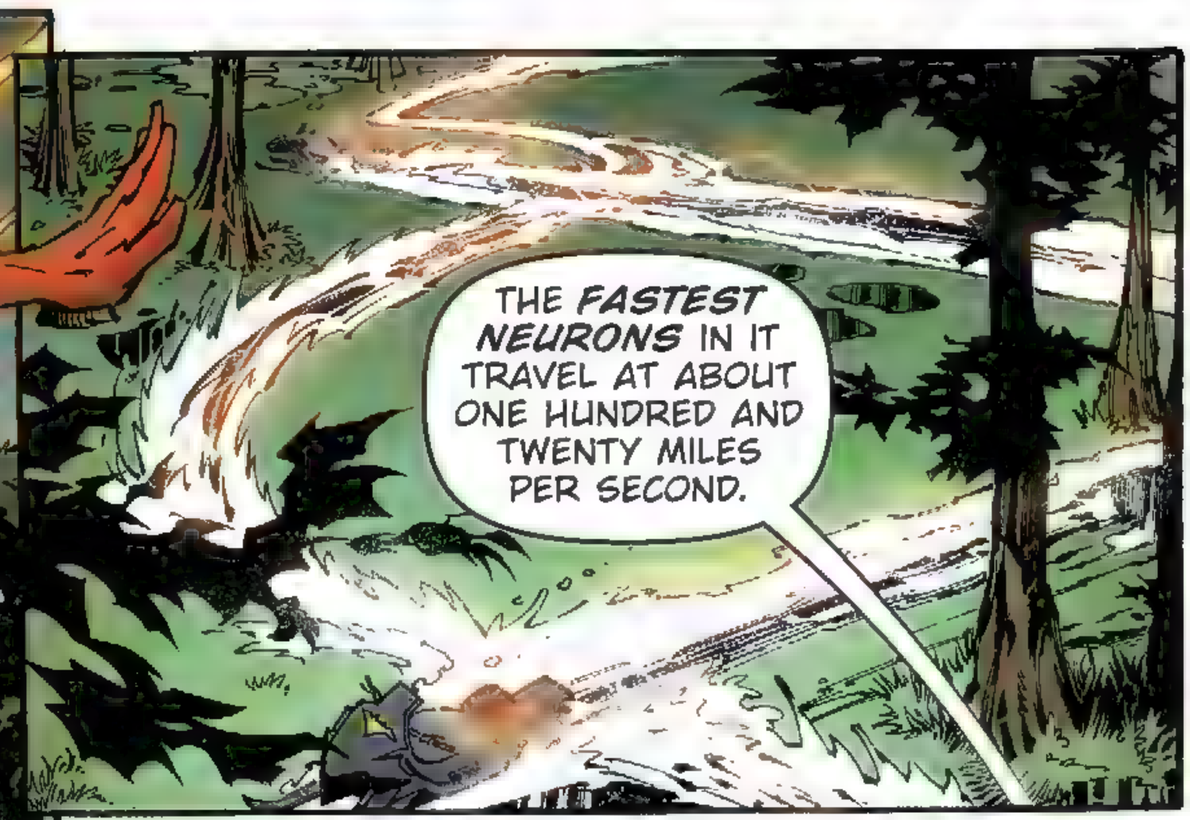

CYBORG, CAN YOU--
THEY'RE BLOCKING ME! I CAN'T TELL WHICH IS HIM! AND I CAN'T TELL WHO HAS THE WEAPON IN HIS BAG! WE NEED TO--
NET THEM ALL. I'M ON IT.
FAMILY, I HAVE ONE ON THE LINE...
NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS REEL HIM...
...IN?
FISH JOKES? BATMAN WOULD KNOW BETTER.
TECHNICALLY, "NET THEM ALL" IS A FISH JOK-- ACK!
UNLESS I MAKE THEM.
ANYTHING, AQUAMAN?
NO WEAPON, WONDER WOMAN. JUST BAIT.

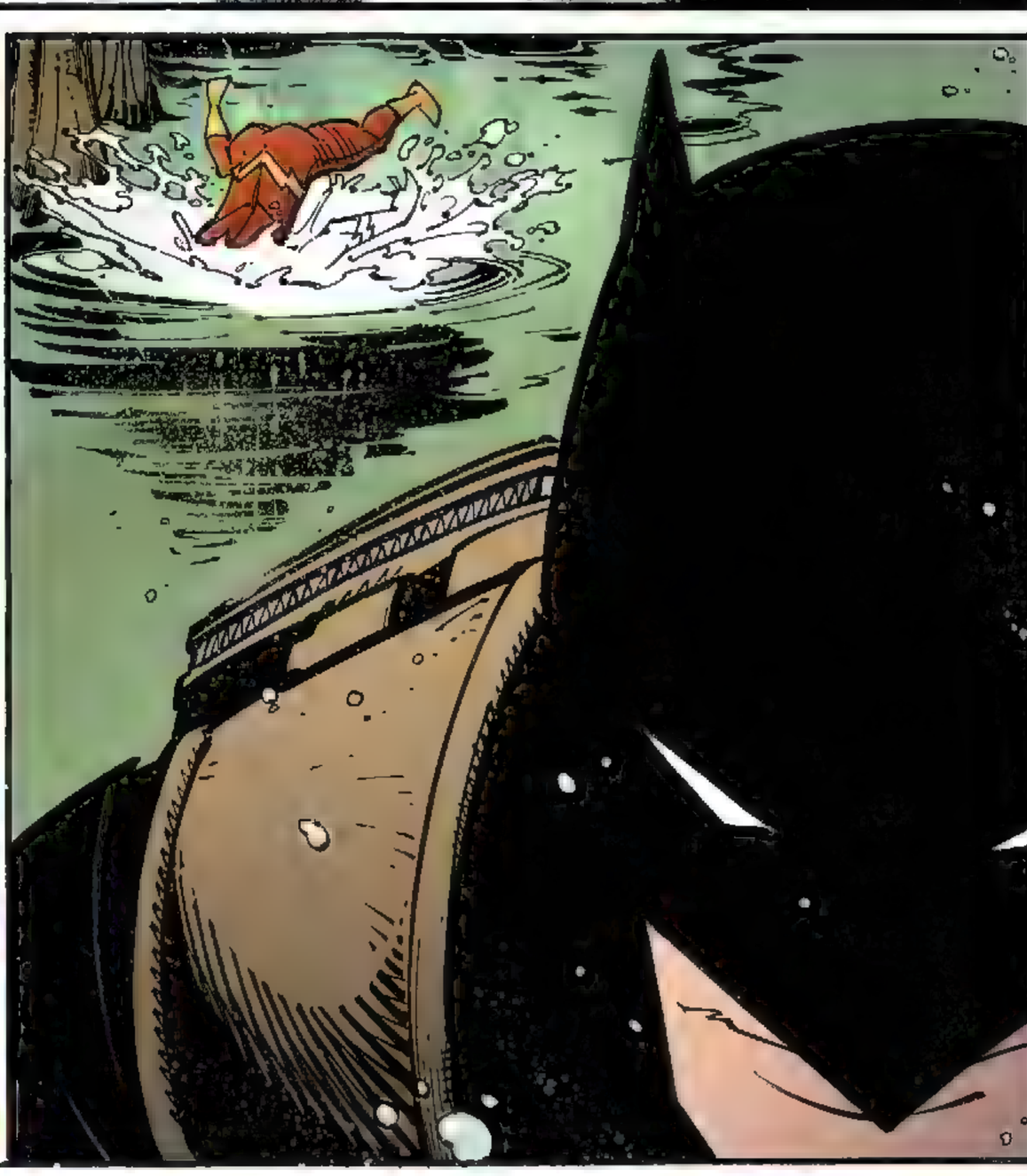
TIME TO SPEED THIS UP, FLASH!
DONE. HEY, BATMAN, FLASH FACT ABOUT THE HUMAN BRAIN...


THE FASTEST NEURONS IN IT TRAVEL AT ABOUT ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY MILES PER SECOND.

THAT'S ABOUT THE LIMIT OF THE SPEED OF THOUGHT. SO YEAH, YOU'RE SMART AS HELL...

...BUT I LITERALLY MOVE FASTER THAN YOU CAN THINK.
"BAT FACT" ABOUT THE HUMAN BRAIN. IT WEIGHS FIFTEEN POUNDS WHEN ENCASED IN ICE.

WH--
ZZZTTT



HAR. HAR. HAR. ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY MILES A SECOND.

AND NOW YOU'RE THE *LAST MAN STANDING.*

I'VE CRACKED THEIR CODE. I SEE YOU, *NIGHTWING.*

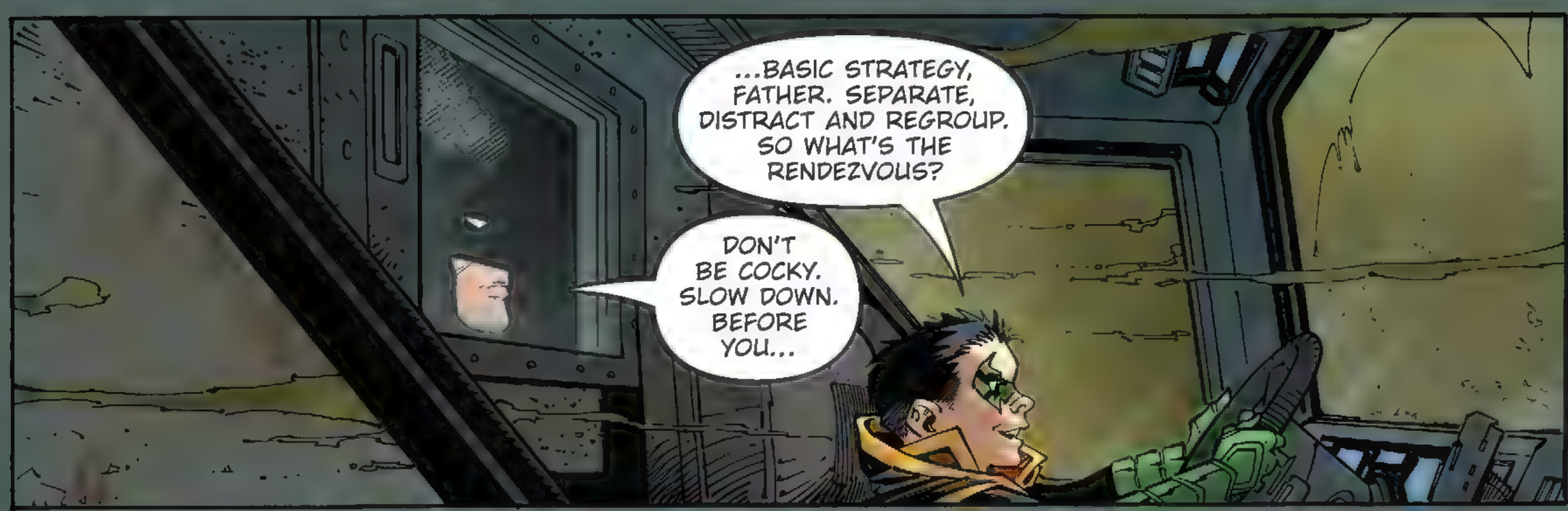
AND YOU, BATWOMAN. BATGIRL. RED HOOD. BATWING.

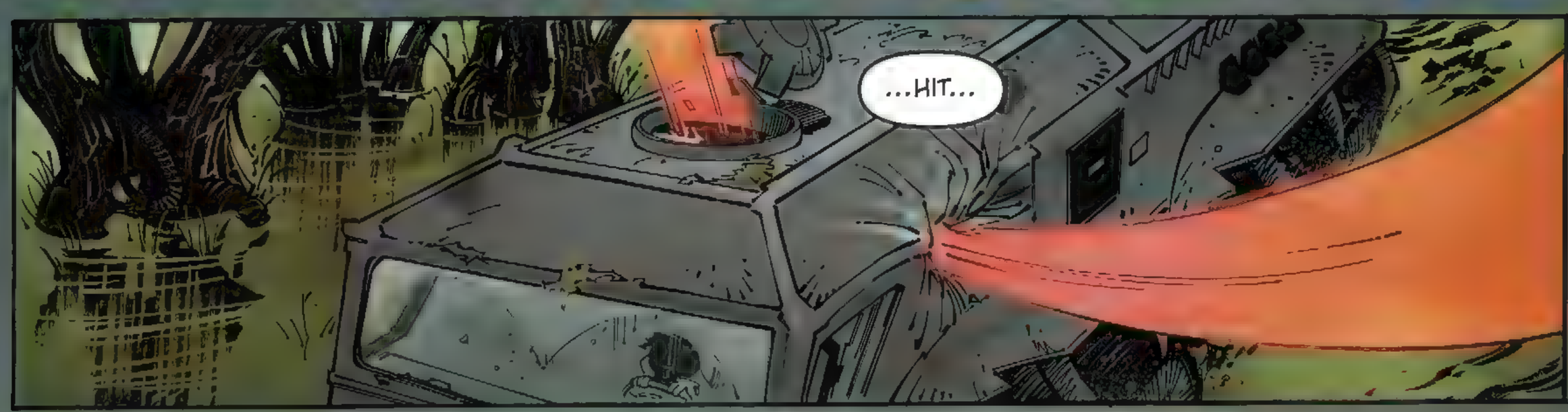
LISTEN TO US, NIGHTWING. IF HE TOOK WHAT THEY SAY HE TOOK, AND IT'S IN THAT BAG, IT'S *FAR TOO DEADLY* FOR ANY ONE BEING IN THE UNIVERSE TO POSSESS.

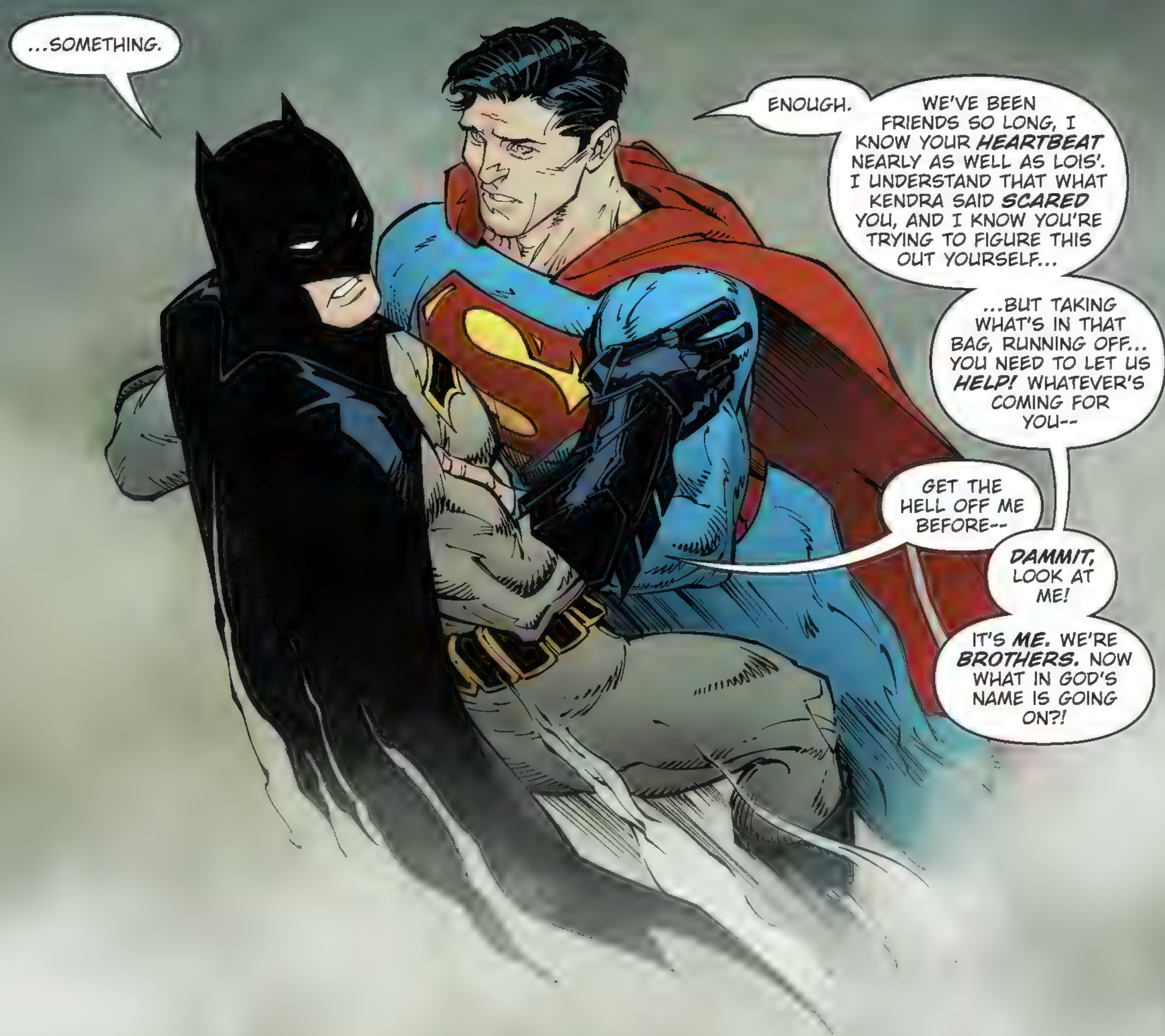
YOU NEED TO GIVE IT TO US. NOW.

WHO DARES HARM THE GREEN HERE?! AT THE PARLIAMENT OF TREES?!

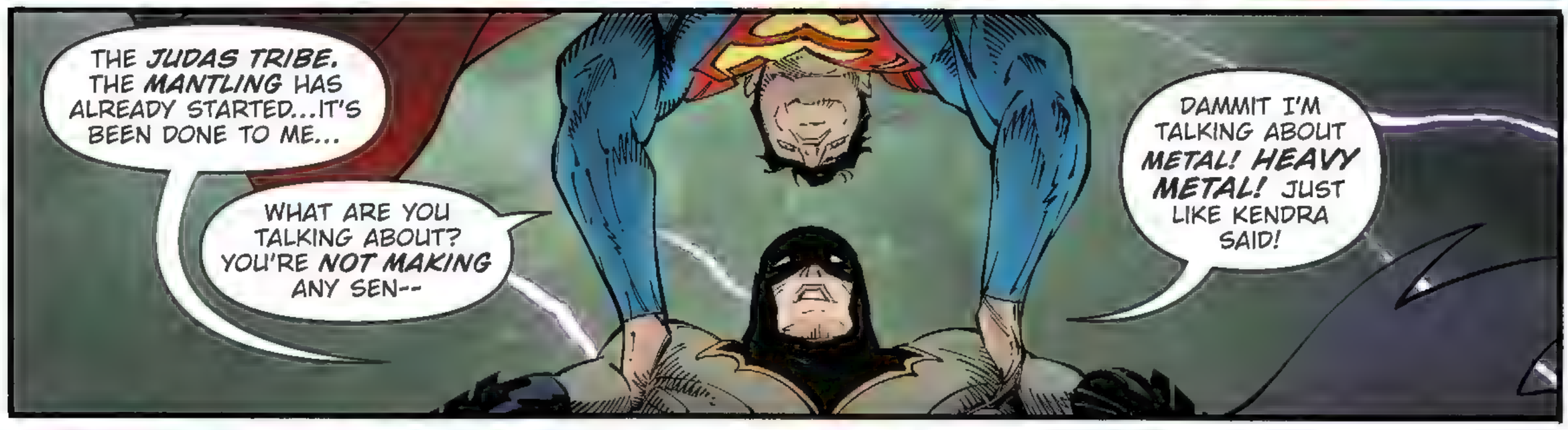
"IT'S ELEMENTAL..."

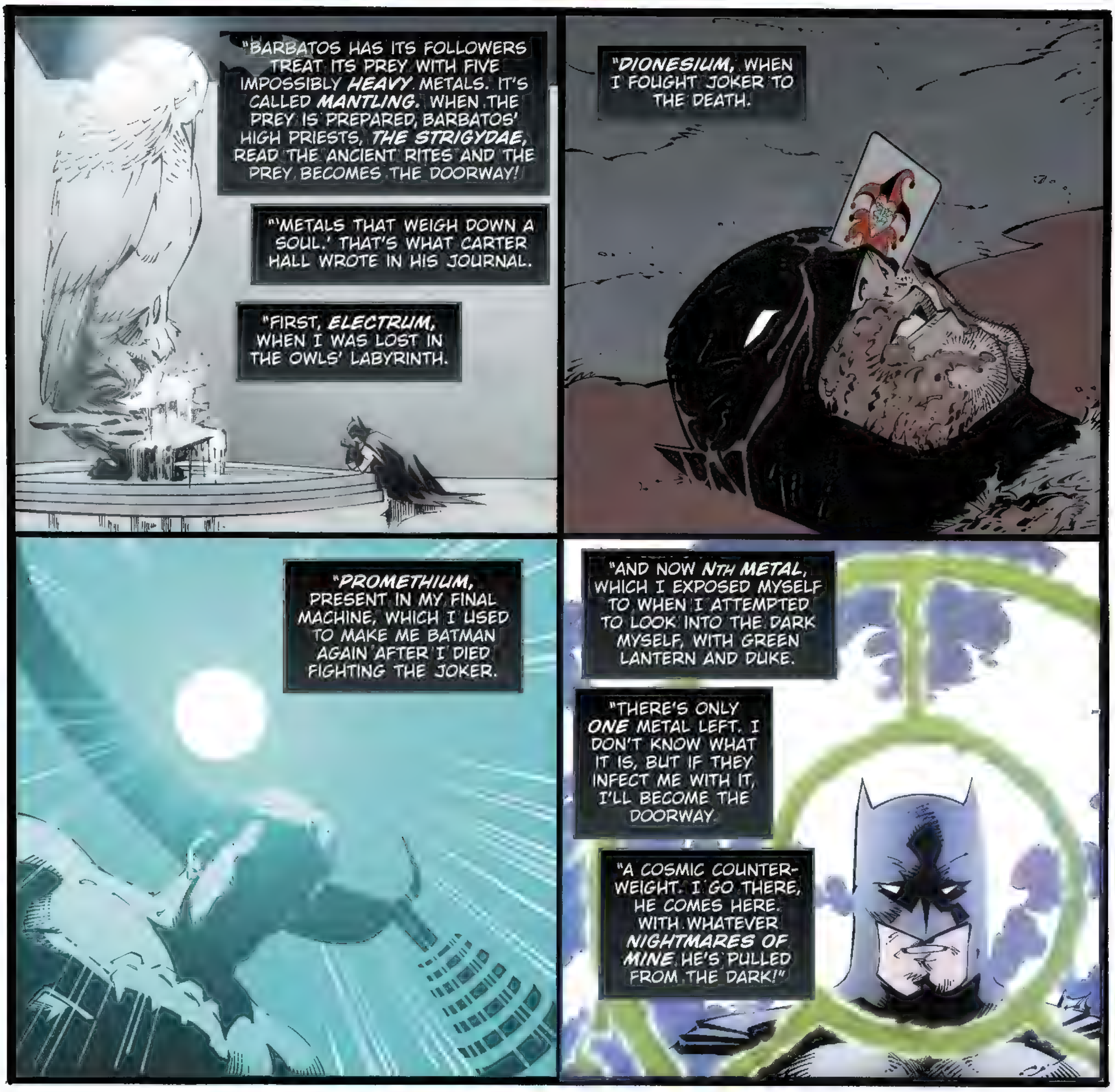

...BASIC STRATEGY, FATHER. SEPARATE, DISTRACT AND REGROUP. SO WHAT'S THE RENDEZVOUS?
DON'T BE COCKY. SLOW DOWN. BEFORE YOU...


...HIT...


...SOMETHING.
ENOUGH.
WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS SO LONG, I KNOW YOUR HEARTBEAT NEARLY AS WELL AS LOIS'. I UNDERSTAND THAT WHAT KENDRA SAID SCARED YOU, AND I KNOW YOU'RE TRYING TO FIGURE THIS OUT YOURSELF...
...BUT TAKING WHAT'S IN THAT BAG, RUNNING OFF... YOU NEED TO LET US HELP! WHATEVER'S COMING FOR YOU--
GET THE HELL OFF ME BEFORE--
DAMMIT, LOOK AT ME!
IT'S ME. WE'RE BROTHERS. NOW WHAT IN GOD'S NAME IS GOING ON?!

ALL RIGHT...
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN STOP IT! THIS...THING...BARBATOS, IT'S BEEN TARGETING ME FOR YEARS! I'VE EVEN FELT IT, WATCHING FROM THE DARK, SHAPING THINGS.
IT FIRST SAW ME WHEN I WENT BACK IN TIME. IT SAW ME AND IT'S BEEN PREPARING ME...THEY'VE BEEN PREPARING ME.
WHO?


THE JUDAS TRIBE. THE MANTLING HAS ALREADY STARTED...IT'S BEEN DONE TO ME...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU'RE NOT MAKING ANY SEN--
DAMMIT I'M TALKING ABOUT METAL! HEAVY METAL! JUST LIKE KENDRA SAID!


"BARBATOS HAS ITS FOLLOWERS TREAT ITS PREY WITH FIVE IMPOSSIBLY HEAVY METALS. IT'S CALLED MANTLING. WHEN THE PREY IS PREPARED, BARBATOS' HIGH PRIESTS, THE STRIGYDAE, READ THE ANCIENT RITES AND THE PREY BECOMES THE DOORWAY!
"'METALS THAT WEIGH DOWN A SOUL.' THAT'S WHAT CARTER HALL WROTE IN HIS JOURNAL.
"FIRST, ELECTRUM, WHEN I WAS LOST IN THE OWLS' LABYRINTH.
"DIONESIUM, WHEN I FOUGHT JOKER TO THE DEATH.
"PROMETHIUM, PRESENT IN MY FINAL MACHINE, WHICH I USED TO MAKE ME BATMAN AGAIN AFTER I DIED FIGHTING THE JOKER.
"AND NOW NTH METAL, WHICH I EXPOSED MYSELF TO WHEN I ATTEMPTED TO LOOK INTO THE DARK MYSELF, WITH GREEN LANTERN AND DUKE.
"THERE'S ONLY ONE METAL LEFT. I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS, BUT IF THEY INFECT ME WITH IT, I'LL BECOME THE DOORWAY.
"A COSMIC COUNTER-WEIGHT. I GO THERE, HE COMES HERE. WITH WHATEVER NIGHTMARES OF MINE HE'S PULLED FROM THE DARK!"

"HOW DO WE STOP IT?"

"I DON'T KNOW THAT WE CAN! IT'S HAPPENING NOW, IN METROPOLIS, ALL OVER THE WORLD. METALS LACED BY THE JUDAS TRIBE... CONDUCTORS...THEY'RE *SCREAMING OUT* THAT BARBATOS IS COMING! GETTING CLOSER!"

DAILY PLANET

THERE *HAS* TO BE A WAY.

THERE MIGHT BE...BUT THE KEY IS FAR FROM HERE. VERY FAR. COME WITH ME--WE CAN TAKE THE BAG, AND--

ENOUGH. HE'S STILL ***LYING.*** I DON'T NEED MY LASSO TO TELL ME THAT. HE'S ***STALLING*** US...

MORE DAMN *TRICKS!*

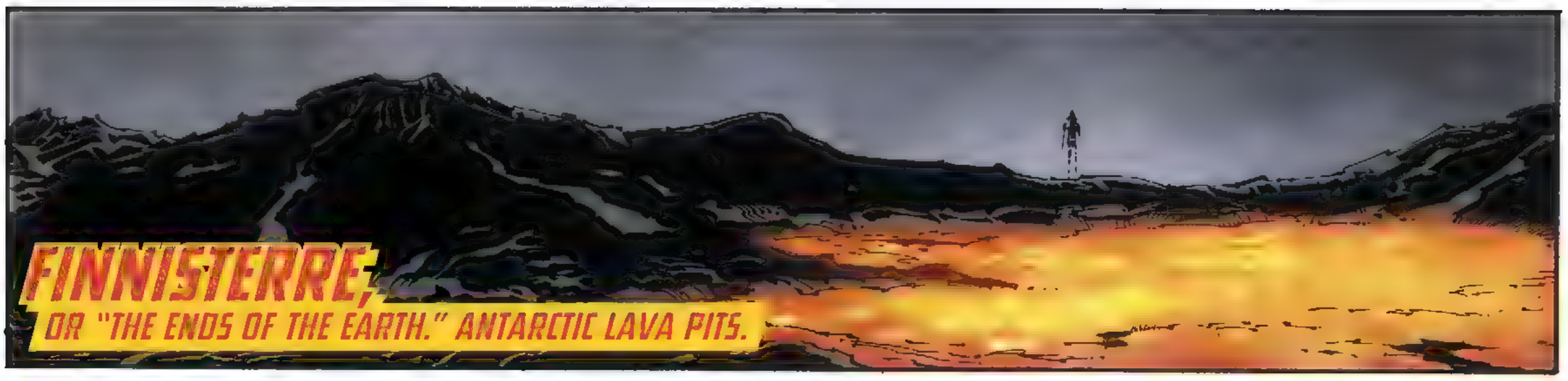
EASY, FLYBOY! JUST PLAYING MY PART. GOT HIM DOWN PRETTY WELL, THOUGH, EH?

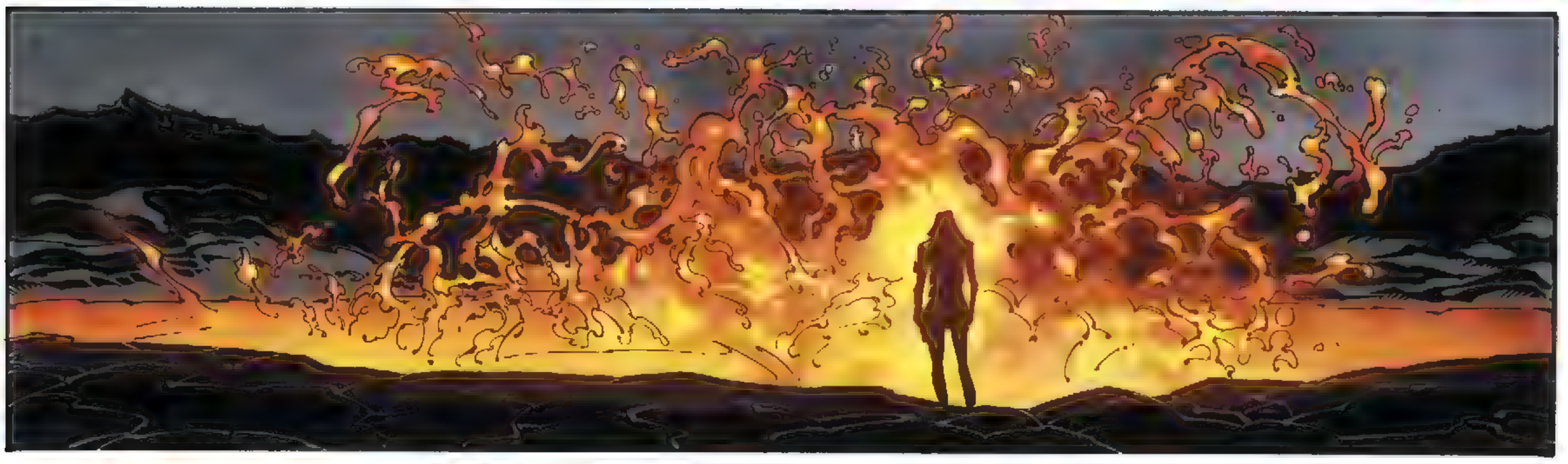
SUPERMAN! CALM DOWN!

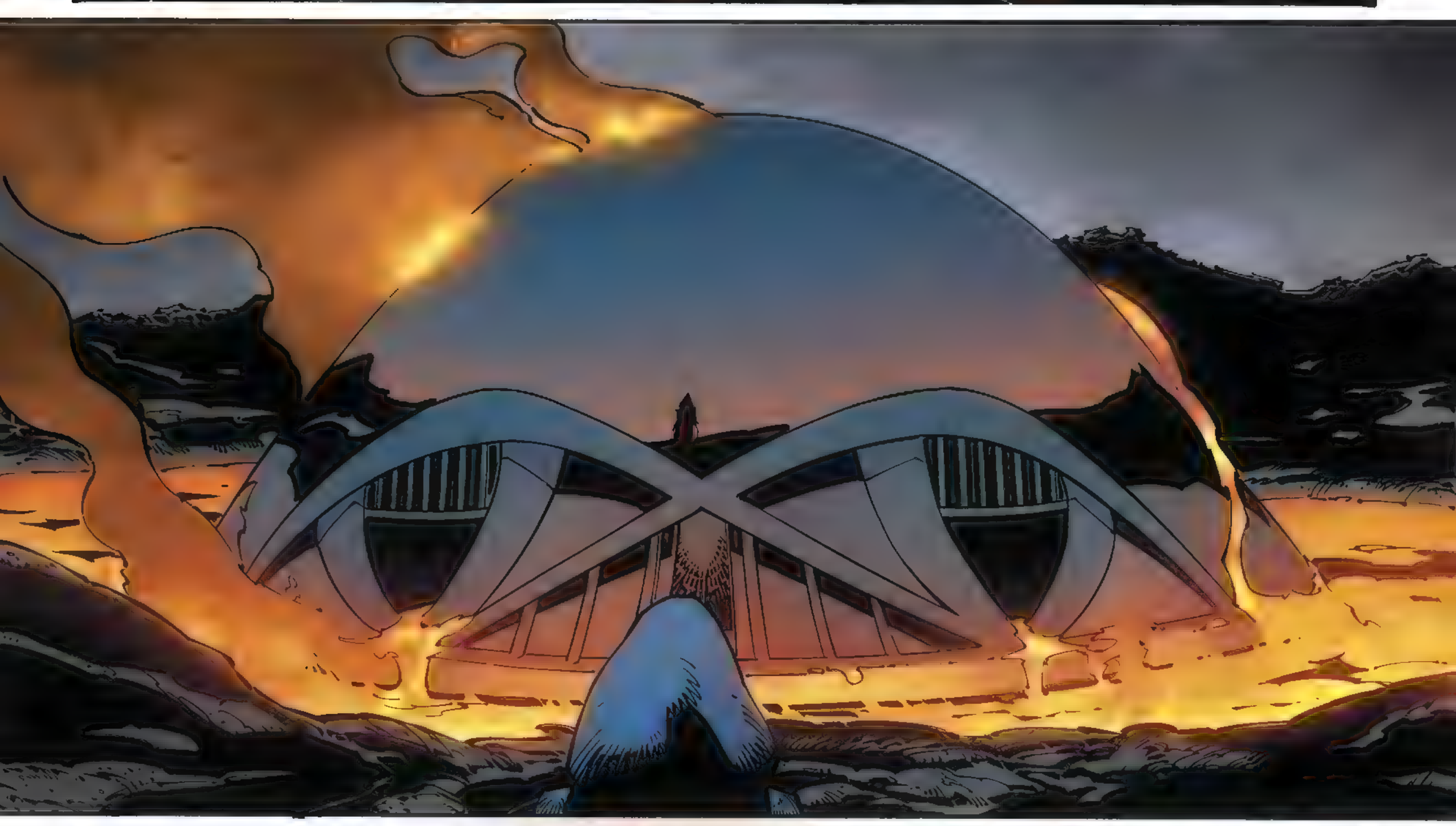
I'M SORRY. IT'S JUST...I MEANT WHAT I SAID EARLIER. I ***KNOW HIS HEART.*** AND HE MADE THESE BY TRANSMITTING HIS OWN HEARTBEAT. BUT THE RHYTHM...***HE'S SCARED,*** DIANA. MORE SCARED THAN I'VE EVER SEEN HIM.

AND I'M SCARED ***FOR*** HIM. FOR ALL OF US.

WE'LL SOLVE THIS, SUPERMAN, IF IT TAKES US TO THE ***ENDS OF THE EARTH.*** WE WILL.


FINNISTERRE,
OR "THE ENDS OF THE EARTH." ANTARCTIC LAVA PITS.





"PARDON THE DECOR, KENDRA, I'M BUILDING THIS PLACE FOR...ANOTHER PURPOSE, BUT WITH OUR ***NEED FOR SECRECY,*** IT'S THE BEST THERE IS."
"ENOUGH. I WOULD NEVER ASSOCIATE WITH YOU IF THIS WEREN'T DIRE, ***VANDAL.*** NONE OF US WOULD, BUT BATMAN IS STILL MISSING, AND THE ***VISIONS*** HAVE STARTED. ***DOCTOR FATE, JOHN HENRY IRONS...*** THEY HAVE SEEN BARBATOS' ARMY.
"AND THE ONE CALLED ***PLASTIC MAN...***THE UNSTABLE CELLS THAT MAKE UP HIS BODY ARE VIBRATING AT FREQUENCIES WE'VE NEVER RECORDED BEFORE. HE COULD BE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING WHAT'S COMING. IF WE CAN ***FIND HIM...***"

THERE IS NO TIME. WE ARE THE OLDEST BEINGS ON THE PLANET, ***IMMORTALS,*** MANY OF US DESCENDED FROM THE ORIGINAL TRIBES. WE HAVE FACED THIS THREAT BEFORE, AND WE MUST USE THE ***ULTIMATE OPTION*** IF NECESSARY.

BUT IF WE USE THE ***BRAIN***--

IF...YOU MEAN ***WHEN.*** WE VOTED, KENDRA. WHILE YOU WERE SEARCHING FOR WAYNE. IT WAS DECIDED.

YOU WILL TAKE THE ***ANTI-MONITOR'S*** ASTRAL BRAIN AND YOU WILL FIRE IT THROUGH THE CORE OF THE MULTIVERSE, AT THE ***ROCK OF ETERNITY,*** AND DESTROY THE DARK MULTIVERSE ONCE AND FOR ALL...

IT ***SHALL*** BE DONE.

MORGAINE, GREAT WIZARD, CARTER WARNED US, MIXING ANTI-MATTER AND DARK MATTER, IT COULD--

AND WHAT OTHER CHOICE DO WE HAVE?!

WE KEEP LOOKING.

THE TIME FOR THAT IS OVER!

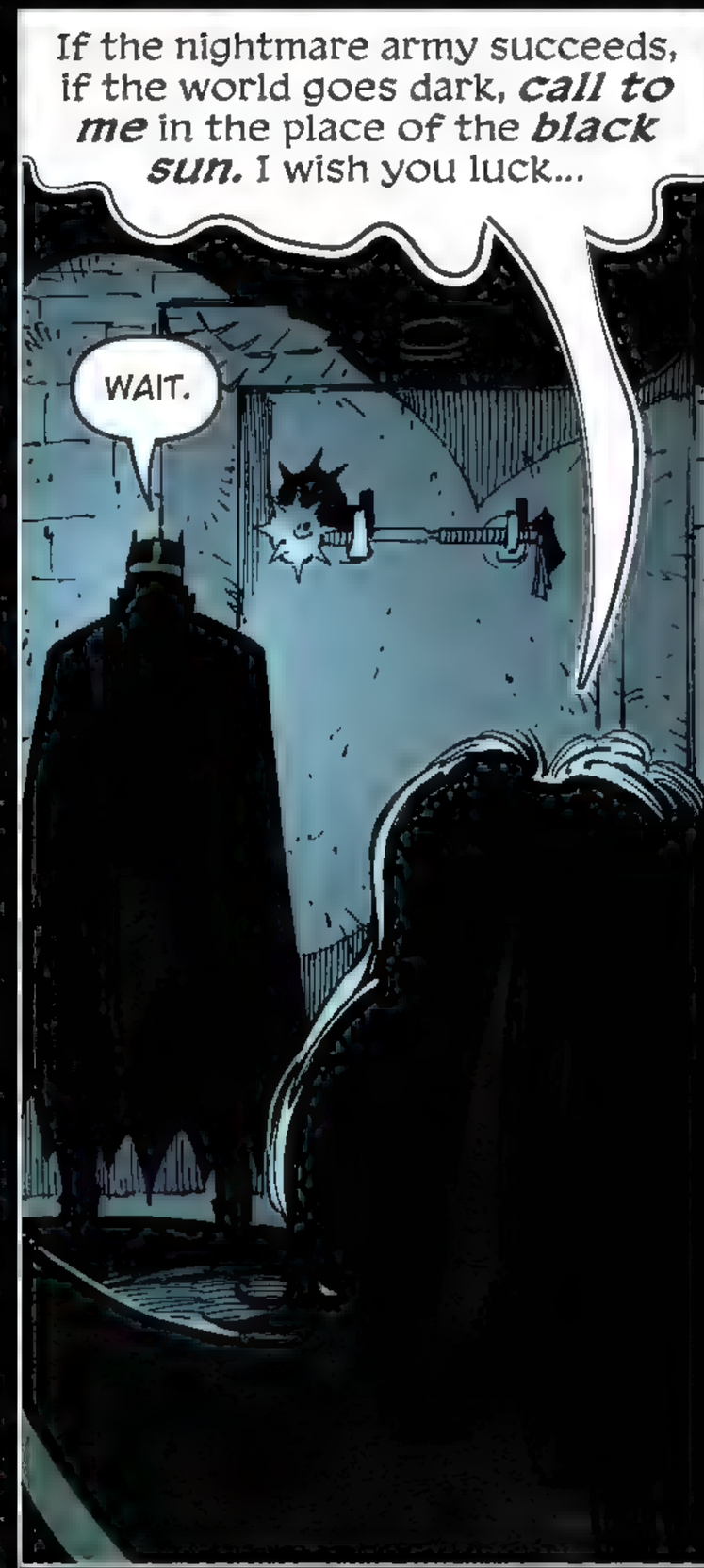
FORGIVE ME. I KNOW I AM THE YOUNGEST HERE, BUT I DO KNOW THE ***DETECTIVE*** WELL. AND WHAT HE WOULD BE DOING RIGHT NOW IS FINDING A WAY TO ***FIGHT*** THIS.

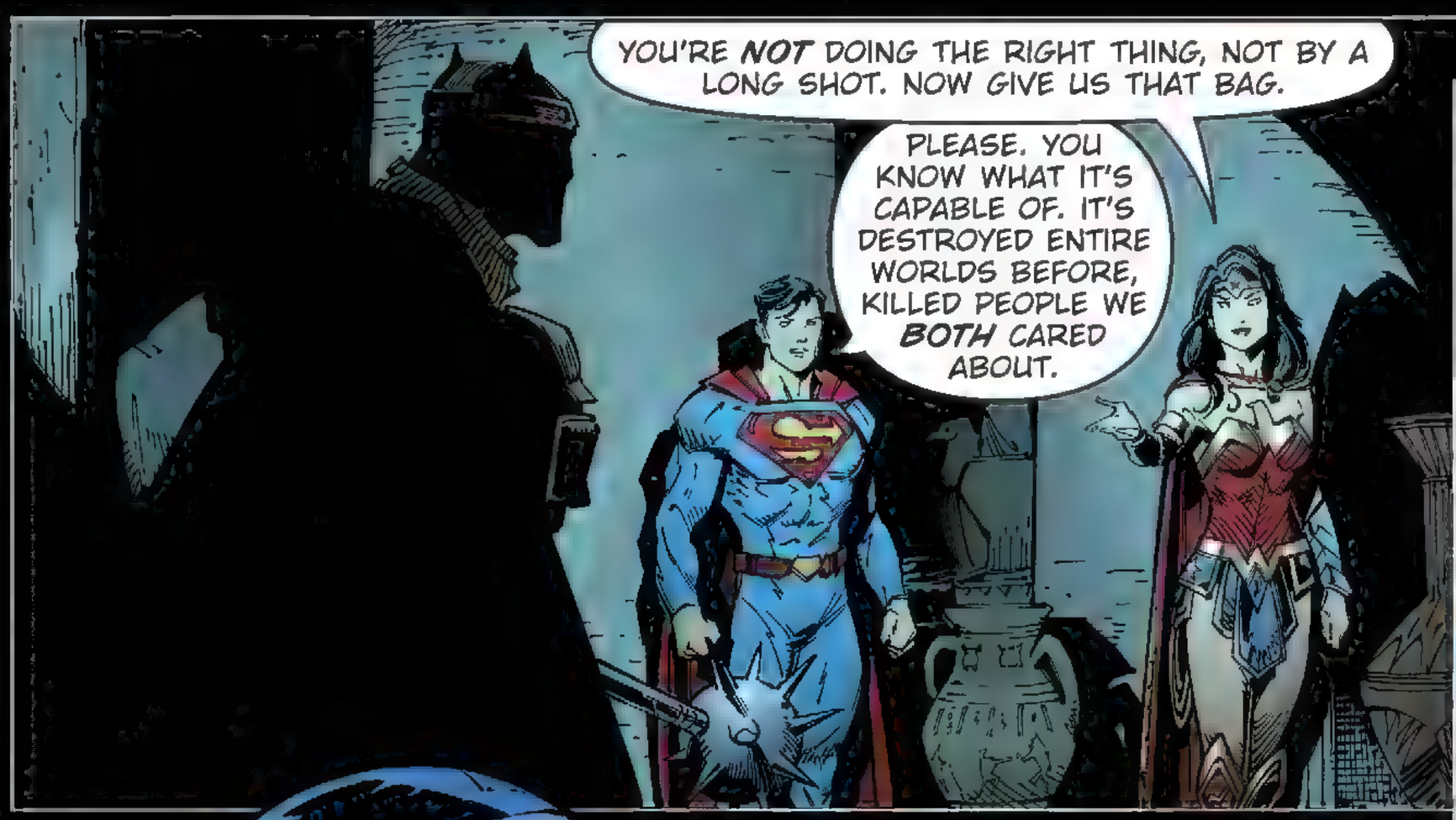
HE'D BE TRYING TO TAKE ***BARBATOS*** ON HIMSELF, HEAD ON. IS THERE ANYWHERE THAT IMPULSE MIGHT LEAD HIM?

NO. THE ONLY WAY WOULD BE TO GO BACK TO THE START. AND FOR THAT HE'D NEED TO FIND THE ANCIENT RESTING PLACE OF...

OH NO.

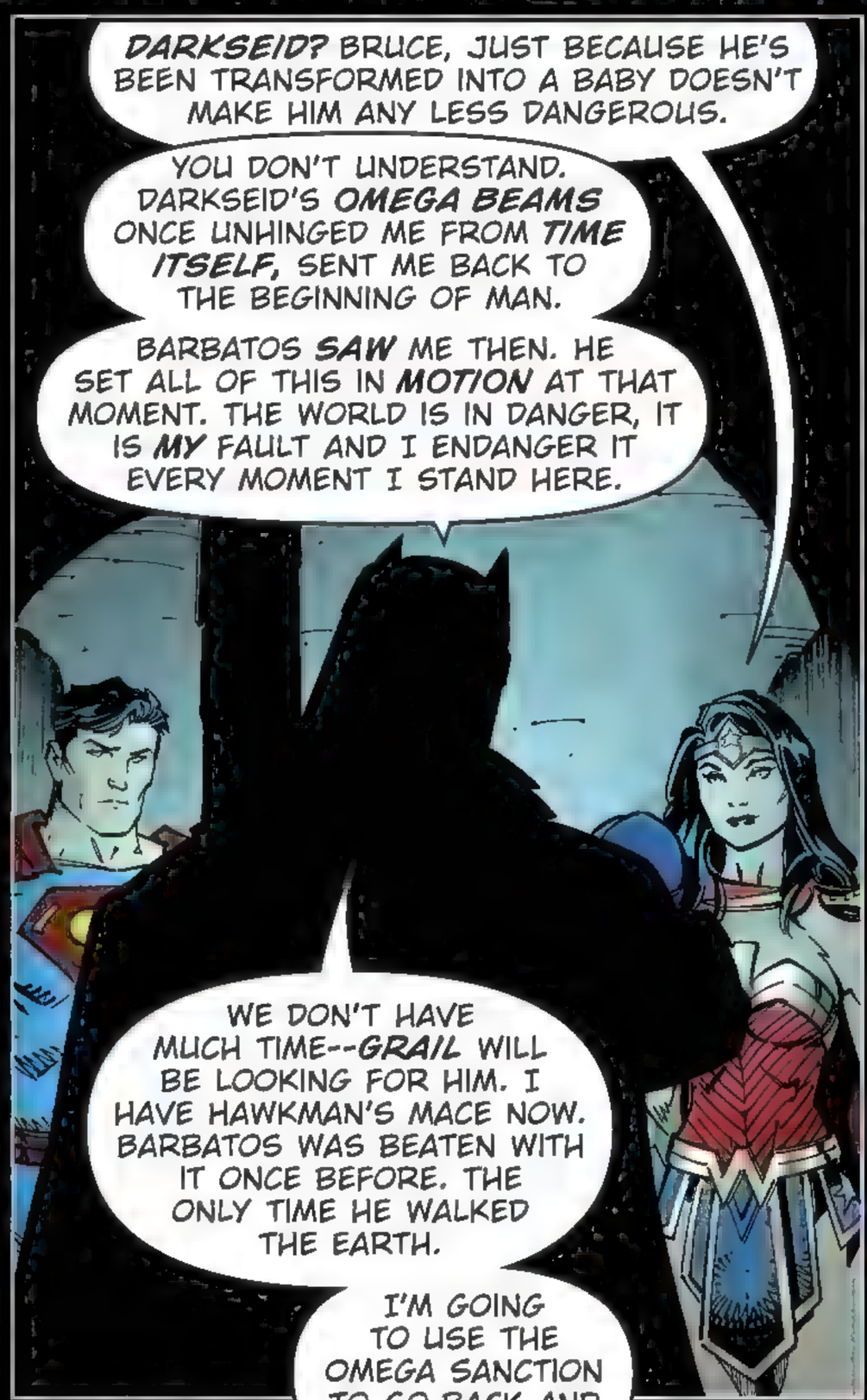
VALLEY OF THE KINGS.
TOMB OF PRINCE KHUFU.

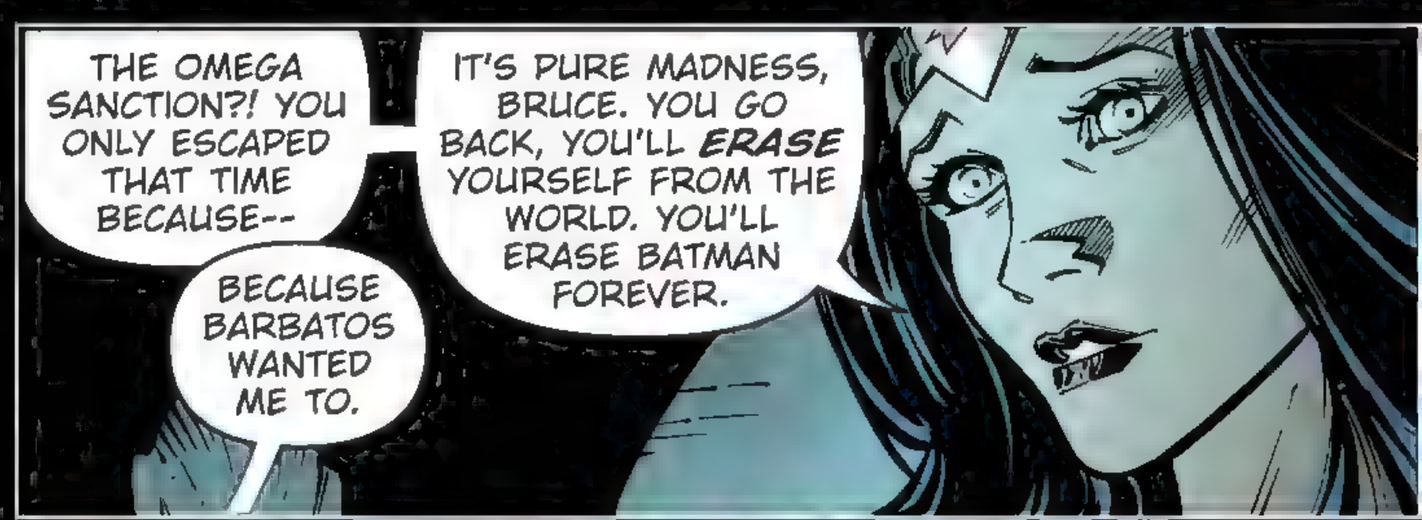



YOU'RE NOT DOING THE RIGHT THING, NOT BY A LONG SHOT. NOW GIVE US THAT BAG.
PLEASE. YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S CAPABLE OF. IT'S DESTROYED ENTIRE WORLDS BEFORE, KILLED PEOPLE WE BOTH CARED ABOUT.

I KNOW...

...AND I'M HERE TO USE HIM! NOW, STAY BACK!


DARKSEID? BRUCE, JUST BECAUSE HE'S BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A BABY DOESN'T MAKE HIM ANY LESS DANGEROUS.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. DARKSEID'S OMEGA BEAMS ONCE UNHINGED ME FROM TIME ITSELF, SENT ME BACK TO THE BEGINNING OF MAN.
BARBATOS SAW ME THEN. HE SET ALL OF THIS IN MOTION AT THAT MOMENT. THE WORLD IS IN DANGER, IT IS MY FAULT AND I ENDANGER IT EVERY MOMENT I STAND HERE.
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME--GRAIL WILL BE LOOKING FOR HIM. I HAVE HAWKMAN'S MACE NOW. BARBATOS WAS BEATEN WITH IT ONCE BEFORE. THE ONLY TIME HE WALKED THE EARTH.
I'M GOING TO USE THE OMEGA SANCTION TO GO BACK AND DO IT AGAIN.


THE OMEGA SANCTION?! YOU ONLY ESCAPED THAT TIME BECAUSE--
BECAUSE BARBATOS WANTED ME TO.
IT'S PURE MADNESS, BRUCE. YOU GO BACK, YOU'LL ERASE YOURSELF FROM THE WORLD. YOU'LL ERASE BATMAN FOREVER.

YOU DON'T THINK I KNOW THAT?! I KNOW IT'S A ONE-WAY... JUST...

JUST, PLEASE. WATCH OVER MY FAMILY. ALL OF THEM... AND DAMIAN...HELP HIM BECOME A BETTER MAN THAN I EVER WAS.
AND TELL HIM I'M SORRY. TELL THEM ALL.

NOW, WHEN I REMOVE THESE GODWAVE GOGGLES, WE'LL ALL BE AT RISK. I NEED YOU BOTH TO STAND BACK!
BATMAN, PLEASE...
÷ZZKT÷ IT'S KENDRA. WONDER WOMAN, DO YOU HEAR ME? DID YOU FIND HIM?
NOT NOW, KENDRA...
NO! LISTEN, DAMMIT. HE ÷ZZKT÷ THINKS HE'S IN THE TOMB OF PRINCE KHUFU. BUT HE'S NOT.
I DESTROYED THAT TOMB DECADES AGO ÷ZZTK÷ THEY MISDIRECTED HIM, AND ÷ZZTK÷ WALKED RIGHT INTO THEIR TRAP!

THE TOMB OF HATH SET.
HE'S IN THE TOMB OF HATH SET! YOU'VE BEEN SET UP!
NO...
ARRGH!
WHAT IS...?

AAHHH!
IT HAS BEEN SO LONG...

...SO LONG SINCE OUR EYES HAVE RESTED ON YOU, GREAT TRAVELER... WE, THE ANCIENT PRIESTS WHO SERVE THE DARK GOD BARBATOS IN YOUR NAME.
SO LONG HAVE WE STRIGYDAE WAITED FOR THIS DAY. FOR THE MANTLING.
AND NOW IT IS UPON US!
HOW...HOW DID YOU DO THIS?

OH, HIDING IN HISTORY HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE GREATEST TALENT OF THE ***COURT OF OWLS.***

SINCE OUR ANCESTORS BROKE FROM THE BIRDS FOR THE BATS AND WERE CONDEMNED AS THE ***JUDAS TRIBE,*** WE'VE HELPED OUR DARK BRETHREN...

ALL THESE YEARS WE'VE BEEN PREPARING YOU FOR HIM, MY BOY. INFECTING YOU, WEIGHING YOU DOWN...EACH STEP BRINGING YOU CLOSER.

NOW OUR PACT IS COMPLETE, AND WE HAVE WOKEN THE ANCIENT STRIGYDAE SO THEY MIGHT BRING THE ***BAT GOD*** HERE FROM THE DARK.

WEH...

HUSH NOW, BABY DARKSEID. WE THINK YOU WILL LIKE THIS BEDTIME STORY.

I'LL STOP YOU...

NO, BATMAN. THAT TIME IS PAST. WE'VE SPENT GENERATIONS HIDING OUR NESTS IN WAYNE BUILDINGS. DID YOU ***REALLY*** THINK WE DIDN'T KNOW WHERE CARTER HALL HID HIS JOURNAL?

ALL WE NEEDED TO DO TO LEAD YOU HERE WAS CHANGE THE COORDINATES OF THE TOMB. YOUR RECKLESS OBSESSION DID THE REST.

NOW, THE FINAL STEP OF THE MANTLING WAS A CHALLENGE. THE LAST METAL DIDN'T EXIST IN OUR WORLD.

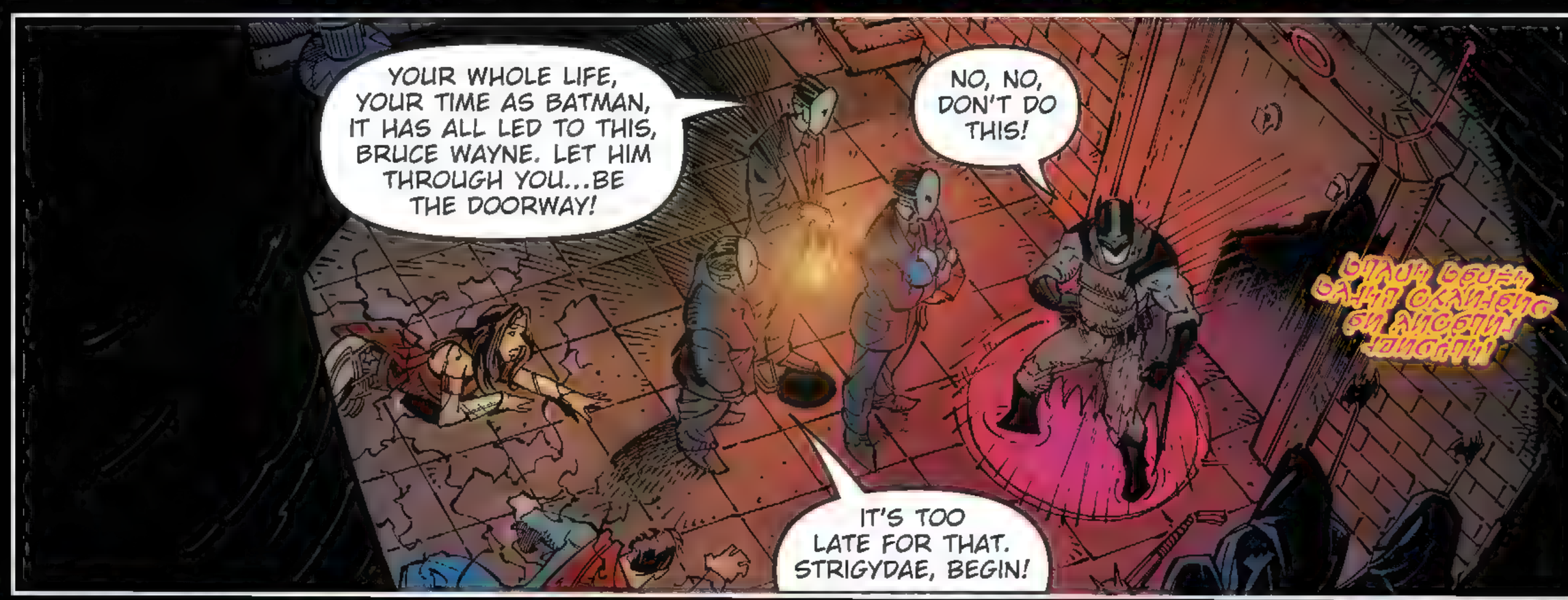
WE FUNDED THE SCIENCE, BUT IT WAS THE GREAT ***POWERS COLLIDER*** IN GOTHAM THAT FINALLY DID THE TRICK.

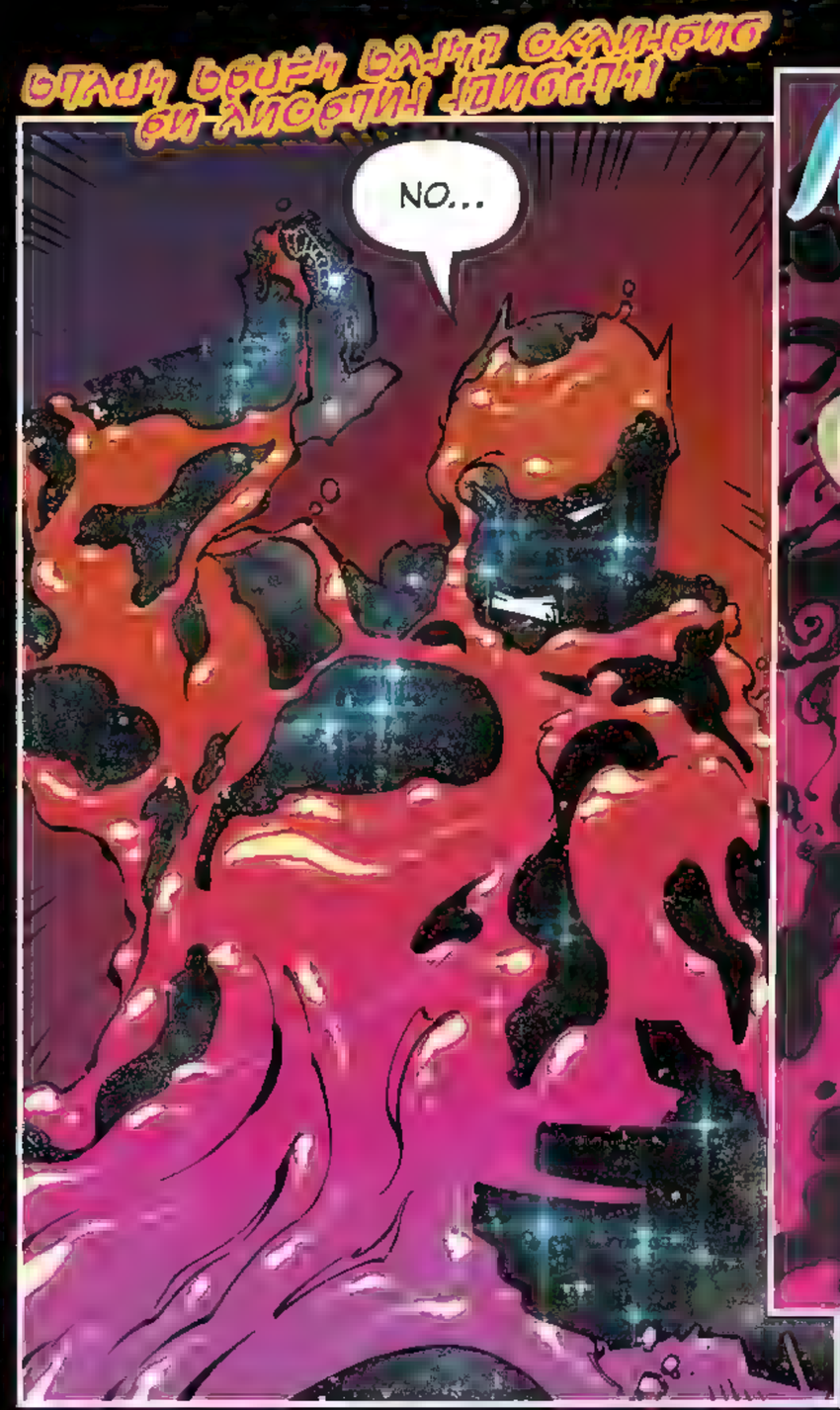
STORIES SO OFTEN RHYME IN THE MOST INTERESTING WAYS. WE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THE FINAL METAL WOULD BE ***FORGED*** IN THE HEAT OF THE COSMOS BENEATH ***GOTHAM CITY.***

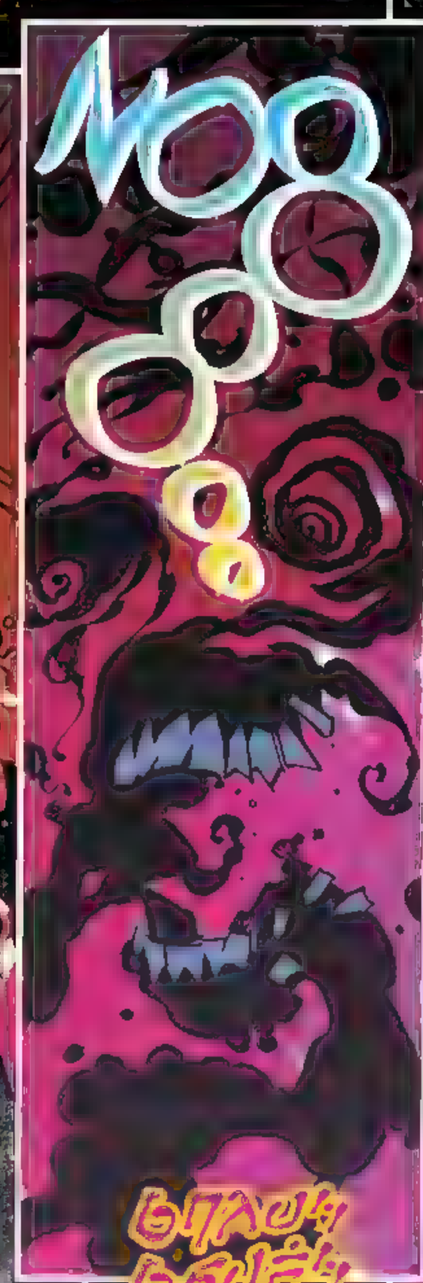
STOP THIS! ***STOP THIS NOW!***

THE FINAL METAL, THE ONE TO DRAG YOU DOWN INTO THE DARK...NAMED PERFECTLY...

BATMANIUM.

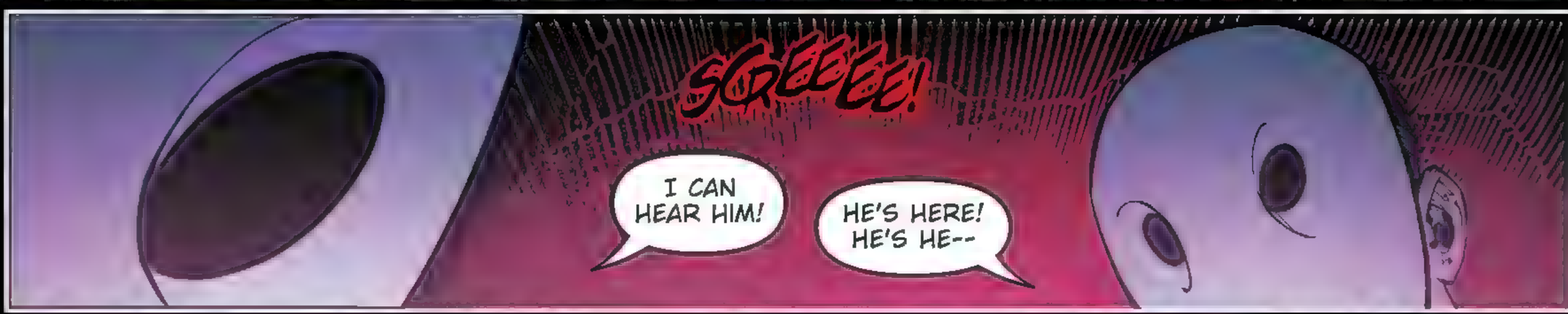

YOUR WHOLE LIFE, YOUR TIME AS BATMAN, IT HAS ALL LED TO THIS, BRUCE WAYNE. LET HIM THROUGH YOU...BE THE DOORWAY!
NO, NO, DON'T DO THIS!
IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT. STRIGYDAE, BEGIN!


NO...

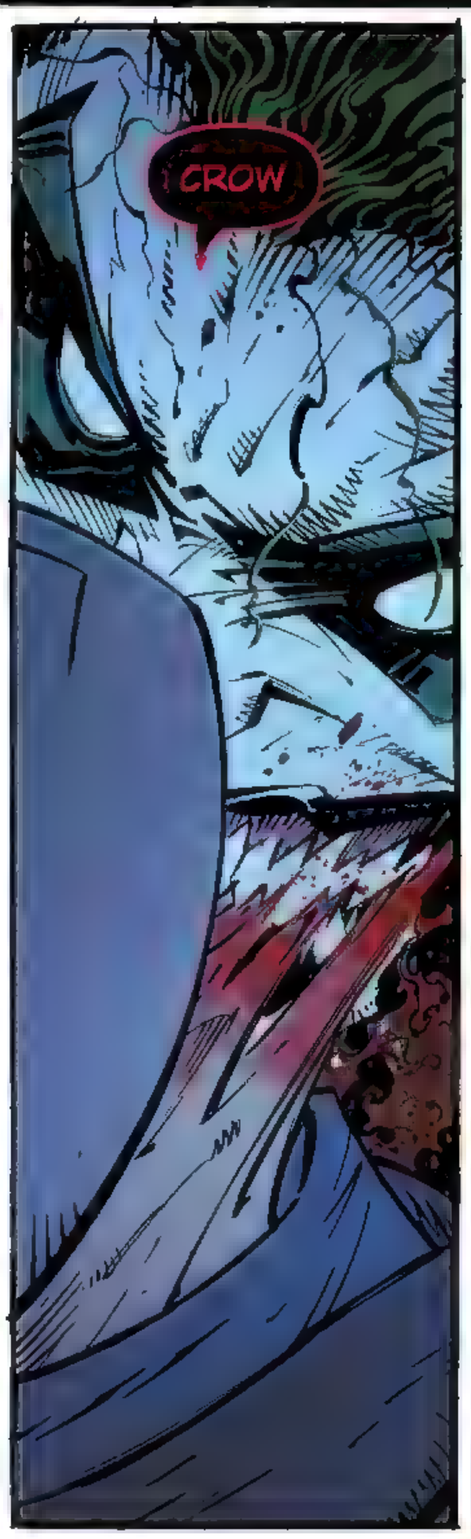


IT'S OPENING! HE HAS BECOME THE DOORWAY!
THE BAT GOD COMES!

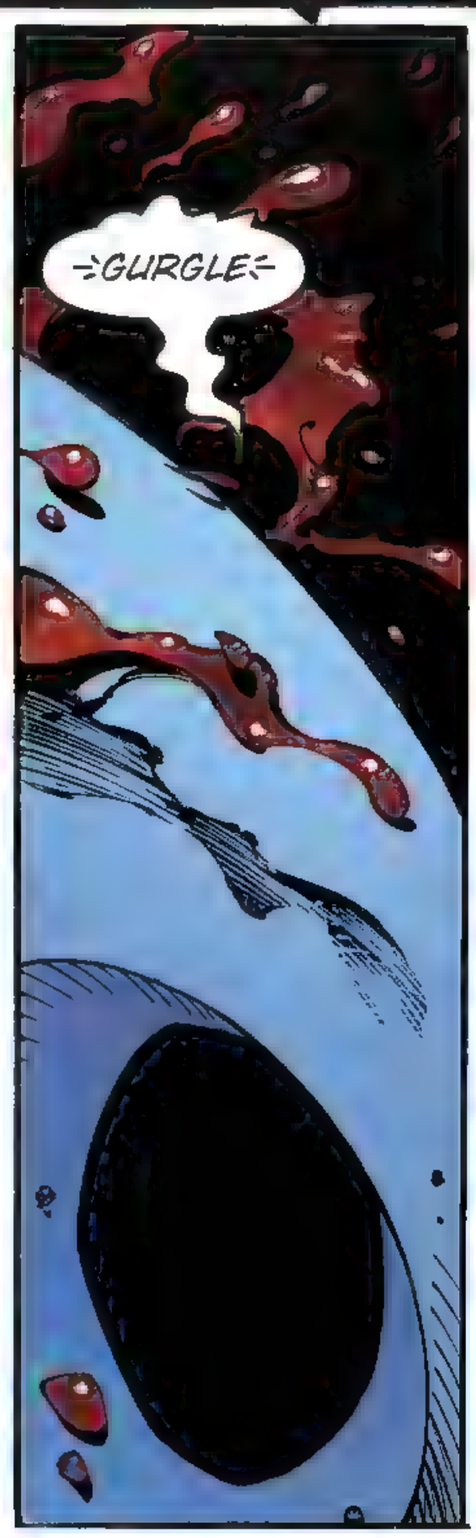
HAIL, BARBATOS! HE WILL REWARD US!
HE WILL CHAIN THE WORLD, AND WE SHALL RULE WITH HIM!
I SEE SOMETHING! LOOK!

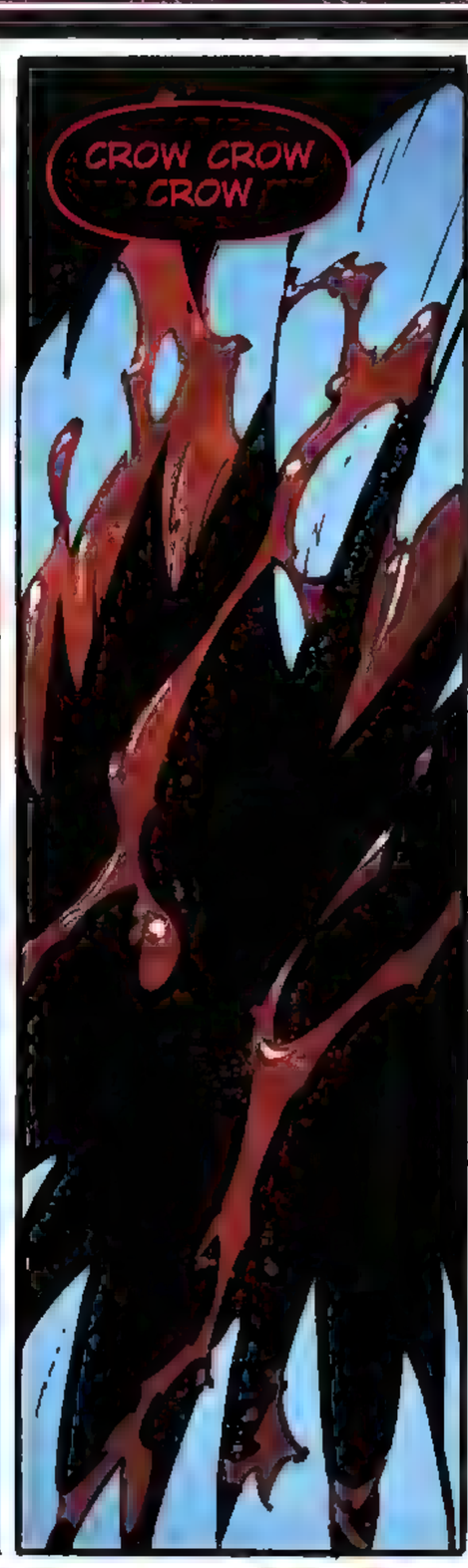

SCREEE!
I CAN HEAR HIM!
HE'S HERE! HE'S HE--

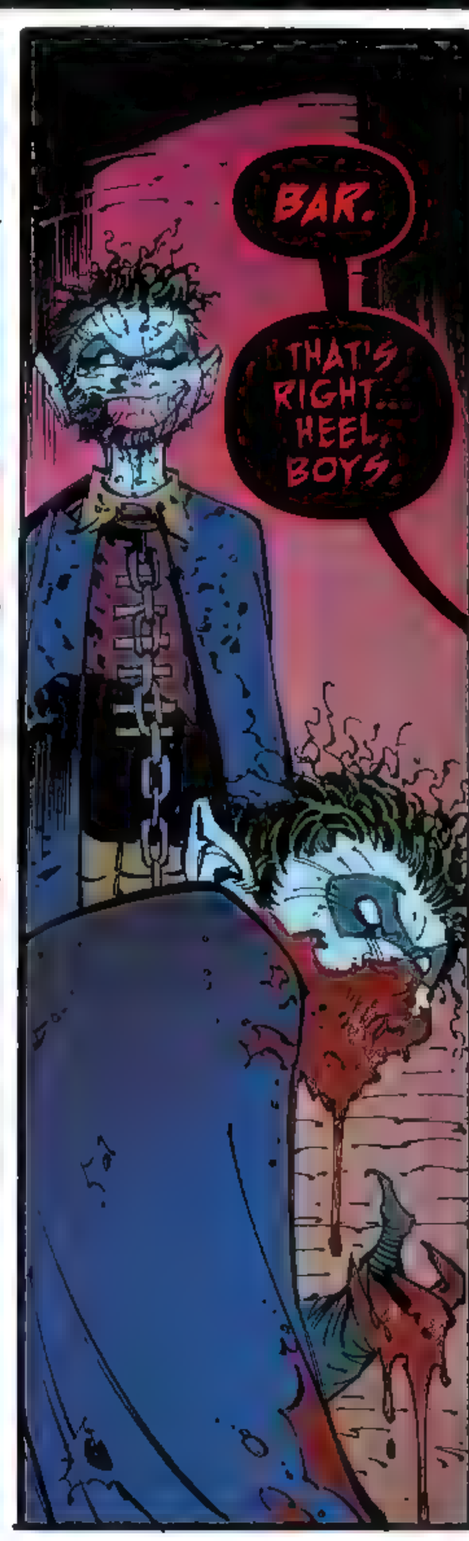
SCREEE!
ARRGH!
Ω

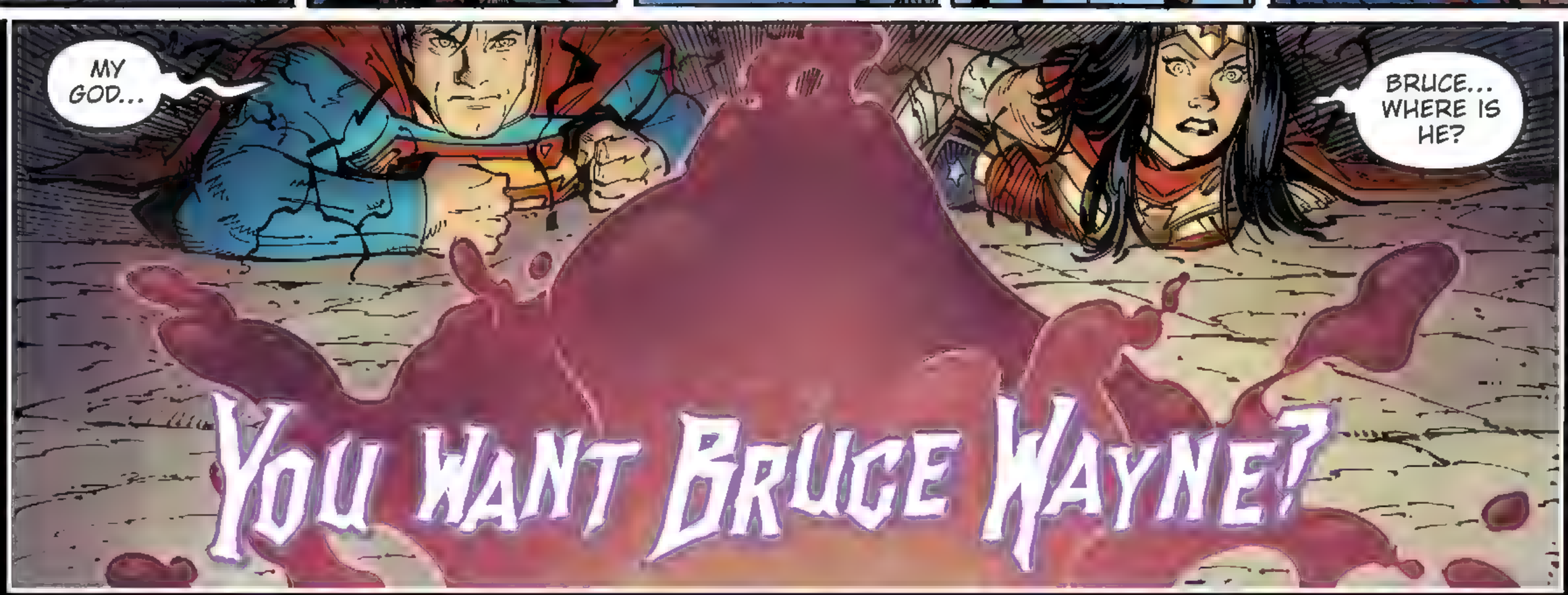

CROW

ACK!
CROW CROW

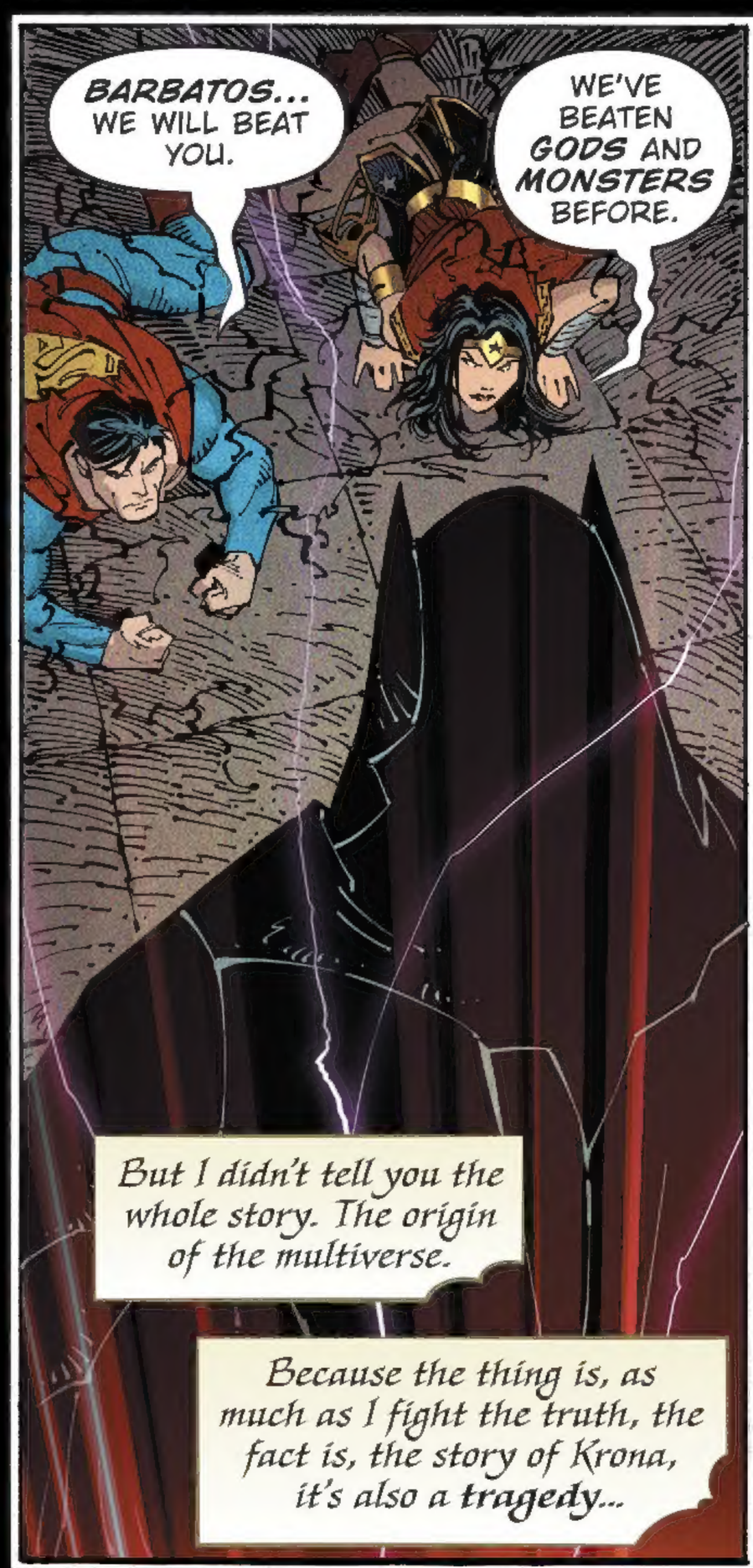

-GURGLE-


CROW CROW CROW


BAR.
THAT'S RIGHT... HEEL, BOYS.


MY GOD...
BRUCE... WHERE IS HE?
YOU WANT BRUCE WAYNE?

LOOK AROUND.
I'M RIGHT HERE.
I'M RIGHT HERE.
I'M RIGHT HERE.
I'M RIGHT HERE.
I'M RIGHT HERE.
I'M RIGHT HERE.
I'M RIGHT HERE.



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A HARDCOVER GRAPHIC NOVEL COLLECTION

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JOSHUA WILLIAMSON AND TOM KING

ART BY
JASON FABOK AND HOWARD PORTER

OCTOBER

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SPOTLIGHT ON THE MUSIC OF DC

WATERTOWER MUSIC

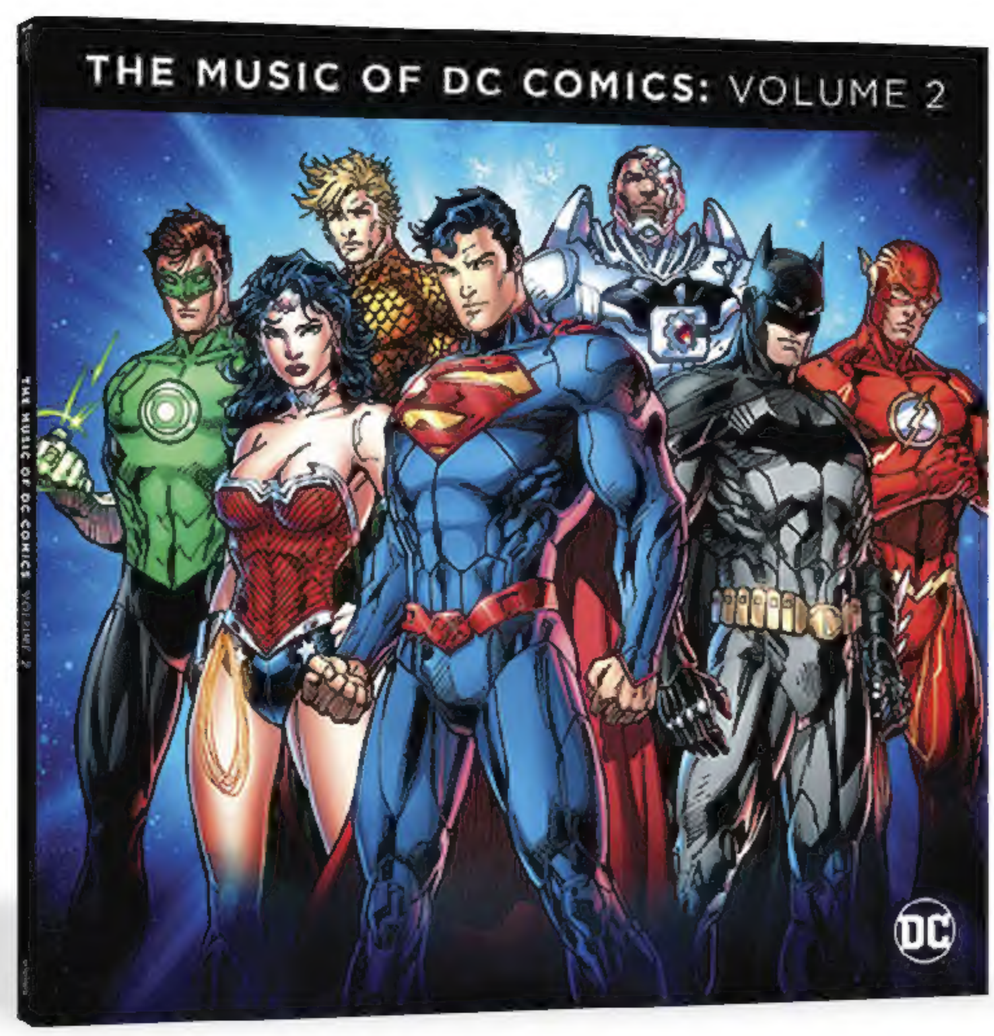
FOR A LIMITED TIME: FREE MUSIC FROM THE WONDER WOMAN SOUNDTRACK:
www.watertowermusic.com/wonderwomandc
Enter the code: wonderwoman

"Duh-nuh-nuh-nuh-nuh-nuh-nuh-nuh, BATMAN!"

Theme songs we've known as long as we can remember. Staples of not just comics culture, but of pop culture. This is the music of DC, the unsung hero almost always present among the heroes and villains that have appeared in DC movies, TV shows, animation and games. That music has accompanied the journeys of millions of fans, most recently with the release of the *Wonder Woman* soundtrack, which features the music of composer Harry Gregson-Williams, and will see a vinyl release on September 22, along with *The Lego Batman Movie*, which had its own recent vinyl release. And fans can look forward to the upcoming release of the *Justice League* soundtrack, which will showcase the music of Danny Elfman.

WaterTower Music, the in-house record label of DC parent company, Warner Bros', is staffed by music fans who have a special affinity for DC and has over 60 DC soundtracks in its catalog.

That passion is most exemplified through Peter Axelrad, who works in music finance by day, and by night is a self-described "accomplished and longtime comic book nerd." Peter has led the charge in mining the vast DC music vaults to assemble two rich collections of music–the 31-song *DC75: The Music of DC Comics Volume 1*, which was released in celebration of DC's 75th anniversary; and *The Music of DC Comics: Volume 2*–a 29-song album available on CD and a beautiful double-vinyl set. These collections showcase the rich musical history of DC, from the first *Superman* radio show in 1940 to present-day blockbuster films. They include everything from Neil Hefti's timeless *Batman* theme to John Williams' timeless *Superman* theme, along with many other favorites, rarities, previously out-of-print and unreleased recordings from DC films, animation, TV and games.



ALL ACCESS

WATCH FOR CONTINUED DC COMICS SOUNDTRACKS TO BE RELEASED BY WATERTOWER MUSIC
More information is available at www.watertowermusic.com/dccomics/@watertowermusic

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